

Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1-77. (Canceled)

78. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method, comprising:

gathering, by ~~an agent~~, a processor or a computer, a plurality of usage data from a plurality of users consuming a plurality of computer resources in an on demand service environment, the on demand service environment providing a plurality of computer services available through a web service interface, wherein the ~~[[agent]]~~ processor is connected to the plurality of users~~[[,]]~~ and the web services interface, ~~and the processing engine~~ by a network, and wherein each of the plurality of usage data measures a consumption of a computer ~~service~~ resource in one of the plurality of computer services;

sending, by the ~~[[agent]]~~ processor, the plurality of usage data to a database through the web services interface;

processing, by the ~~processing engine~~ processor, the plurality of usage data into a plurality of records, each of the plurality of records having a required information section and an attributes section;

saving, by the ~~processing engine~~ processor, the plurality of records into a record table, an attribute table, and a unit of work table, wherein the record table is linked to the attribute table; ~~and the record table is linked~~ and to the unit of work table;

~~responsive to a flag in a required field of a record~~, changing, responsive to a flag in a required field of the record, by the ~~processing engine~~, a status of a ~~particular~~ the unit of work to a closed status in the unit of work table, and responsive to changing the status of the ~~particular~~ unit of work to the closed status in the unit of work table, identifying, ~~by the processing engine~~, a plurality of associated records, wherein an associated record is a record associated with the unit of work;

aggregating, normalizing, and algebraically composing, by the ~~processing engine~~ processor, the plurality of associated records to produce a metric that summarizes ~~summarizing~~ a consumption of the computer resource for the ~~particular~~ unit of work; and

storing, by the ~~processing engine~~ processor, the metric with the records in a database, the metric and the records are configured to be stored and retrieved using ~~[[the]]~~ a ~~[[same]]~~ schema, and wherein the metric is configured to be used in an accounting, an auditing, a billing, or an optimization process.

79. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

~~an agent~~ a processor connected to a memory, a plurality of users and to ~~[[,]]~~ a web services interface, ~~and a processing engine~~ by a network~~[[,]]~~;

a plurality of instructions stored in the memory, the plurality of instructions configured to perform, by the processor, actions comprising:

~~wherein the agent gathers~~ gathering a plurality of usage data from the plurality of users, the plurality of users consuming a plurality of computer resources in an on demand service environment, the on demand service environment providing a plurality of computer services available through the web service interface, wherein each of the plurality of usage data measures a consumption of a computer ~~service~~ resource in one of the plurality of computer services;

~~wherein the agent sends~~ sending the usage data to a database through the web services interface;

~~wherein the processing engine processes~~ processing the usage data into a record having a required information section and an attributes section;

~~wherein the processing engine saves~~ saving the record into a record table, an attribute table, and a unit of work table, wherein the record table is linked to the attribute table, ~~and the record table is linked~~ and to the unit of work table;

~~wherein, responsive to a flag in a required field of a record, the processing engine changes~~ changing, responsive to a flag in a required field of the record, a status of the particular unit of work to a closed status in the unit of work table, and responsive to the status of the ~~particular~~ unit of work changing to the closed status in the unit of work table, ~~the processing engine identifies~~ identifying a plurality of associated records, wherein an associated record is a record associated with the unit of work;

~~wherein the processing engine aggregates, normalizes, and algebraically composes~~ aggregating, normalizing, and algebraically composing the plurality of associated records to produce a metric that summarizes ~~summarizing~~ a consumption of the computer resource for

the ~~particular~~ unit of work~~[[; and]]~~, wherein the ~~processing engine~~ processor stores the metric with the records in the database, wherein the metric and the records are configured to be stored and retrieved using ~~the same~~ a schema, and wherein the metric is configured to be used in an accounting, an auditing, a billing, or an optimization process.

80. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising:
a computer readable medium;

a ~~[[first]]~~ plurality of instructions stored in the computer readable medium, the plurality of instructions configured to cause ~~an agent~~ a processor connected to a plurality of users~~[[,]]~~ and to a web services interface, ~~and a processing engine~~ by a network to:

gather a plurality of usage data from the plurality of users, the plurality of users consuming a plurality of resources in an on demand service environment, the on demand service environment providing a plurality of services available through the web service interface, wherein each of the plurality of usage data measures a consumption of a computer ~~service~~ resource in one of the plurality of computer services; ~~[[and]]~~

send the usage data to a database through the web services interface;

~~a second plurality of instructions configured to cause the processing engine to:~~

process the usage data into a record having a required information section and an attributes section, ~~[[to]]~~ save the record into a record table, an attribute table, and a unit of work table, wherein the record table is linked to the attribute table, ~~and the record table is linked and~~ and to the unit of work table, and ~~responsive to a flag in a required field of a record; change, responsive to a flag in a required field of the record,~~ a status of the ~~particular~~ unit of work to a closed status in the unit of work table, and responsive to ~~the particular~~ a change of the unit of work's status ~~changing~~ to the closed status in the unit of work table~~[[;]]~~, identify a plurality of associated records, wherein an associated record is a record associated with the unit of work;

aggregate, normalize, and algebraically compose the plurality of associated records to produce a metric that summarizes ~~summarizing~~ a consumption of the computer resource for the ~~particular~~ unit of work; and

store the metric with the records in the database, wherein the metric and the records are configured to be stored and retrieved using the ~~[[same]]~~ schema, and wherein the

metric is configured to be used in an accounting, an auditing, a billing, or an optimization process.